AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended): A bearing pad assembly comprising:

a first housing having an exterior surface and defining a bore extending at least part-way through said first housing;

a first load bearing member coupled to said first housing, and defining an outwardly facing first abutment surface;

a second housing defining a bore of a shape similar to said exterior surface of said first housing and adapted to slideably receive said first housing therein;

a second load bearing member coupled to said second housing and defining an outwardly facing second abutment surface opposite to said first abutment surface;

at least one slip lining positioned between said first housing exterior surface and a bore wall defining said second housing bore; and

at least one compression spring positioned within said first housing bore, ~~wherein~~ said compression spring comprise~~s~~ing a solid resilient material having a ~~toroidal~~ torus shape~~, the toroid having an outside diameter minus an inside diameter equal to or greater than a height when positioned in the bearing pad assembly~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the compression spring deforms non-linearly in response to ~~said~~ a load imposed on at least one of the first and second abutment surfaces.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 wherein said solid resilient material is substantially an organic polymer.

6. (Original): The assembly of claim 5 wherein said organic polymer is substantially polyurethane.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended): The assembly of claim 1 wherein said~~the~~ compression spring includes:

at least two compression springs; and

a plate positioned between said compression springs~~the springs,~~ separating said compression ~~the~~ springs from one another.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the slip lining has a coefficient of static friction less than that of the first housing.

11. (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the slip lining is attached to the first housing exterior surface.

12. (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 wherein a second slip lining is attached to the second housing bore wall.

13. (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the slip lining is made substantially of an organic polymer.

14. (Original): The assembly of claim 13 wherein the slip lining is made substantially of polypropylene.

15. (Currently amended): A bearing pad assembly comprising:

a first housing having a bore extending through said first housing;

a first load bearing member coupled to said first housing and defining an abutment surface opposite to said first housing;

a second housing having a bore extending through said second housing, adapted to telescopically receive said first housing;

a second load bearing member coupled to said second housing and defining an abutment surface opposite to said second housing; and

at least one compression spring in the shape of a torus ~~toroid~~ positioned within said first housing bore~~, the toroid having an outside diameter minus an inside diameter equal to or greater than a height when positioned in the bearing pad assembly~~.

16. (Cancelled)

17. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the compression spring has a largest diameter slightly smaller than that of the first housing bore.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 15 further comprising two compression springs positioned within said first housing bore.

20. (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 19 further comprising a plate positioned between the springs, separating the springs from one another.

21. (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 15 further comprising a first slip lining attached to said first housing exterior surface.

22. (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 21 further comprising a second slip lining attached to the second housing bore wall.

23. (New): The assembly of claim 1 wherein said torus shaped compression spring defines an outside diameter minus an inside diameter equal to or greater than a height when positioned in the bearing pad assembly.

24. (New): The assembly of claim 15 wherein said torus shaped compression spring defines an outside diameter minus an inside diameter equal to or greater than a height when positioned in the bearing pad assembly.